

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the interview between Examiner Mark Halvorson, Gary Connell and Dr. Ian Rourke on December 19, 2011. During the course of the discussion, the outstanding rejections under 35 USC § 103(a) in view of WO 2003/068257 and Huber et al. were discussed. Particularly, distinctions between the current application and WO 2003/068257 (related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/503,794), were discussed. In addition, a variety of secondary considerations supporting patentability of the present claims were discussed.

Applicants are currently awaiting further examination of this application. Examiner Halvorson indicated that should any issues arise during examination that he would contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a further action.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: /Gary J. Connell/
Gary J. Connell
Registration No. 32,020
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80202-514
(303) 863-9700

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